

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A performance counter framework for rendering performance counter data in a computer system ~~including a performance counter provider application process and a performance counter consumer application process~~, the performance counter framework comprising:

a processor;

an operating system executed by the processor;

a performance counter provider application process executed by the processor;

a performance counter consumer application process executed by the processor;

an application program interface of the operating system, comprising a set of functions including:

a counter registration function called by the performance counter provider application process to ~~register~~ allocate a performance counter structure within an address space of the performance counter provider application process, the address space designated by the operating system, wherein the counter registration function ~~registers~~ assigns an access function for retrieving performance counter data from the performance counter structure; and

a counter query function called by the performance counter consumer application process to retrieve counter data from the performance counter structure within the address space of the performance counter provider application process by invoking the access function.

2. (Previously Presented) The performance counter framework of claim 1, wherein the access function operates within the address space of the counter provider application process to retrieve the performance counter data from the performance counter structure.

3. (Original) The performance counter framework of claim 2, wherein the access function is a callback function.

4. (Currently amended) The performance counter framework of claim 1, wherein the counter registration function further supports specifying a data template describing the performance counter data.

5. (Currently amended) The performance counter framework of claim 1, wherein ~~the application program interface includes a method~~ at least one portion of one of the set of functions for installing installs a description of the performance data furnished by a provider associated with the performance counter provider application process.

6. (Currently amended) The performance counter ~~provider~~ framework of claim 5, wherein the description of the performance data includes a performance counter data schema.

7. (Currently amended) The performance counter framework of claim 1, wherein ~~the application program interface includes a method~~ at least one portion of one of the set of functions for requesting requests a block of data items to be created according to a specified dataset template.

8. (Currently amended) The performance counter framework of claim 1, wherein ~~the application program interface includes a method~~ at least one portion of one of the set of functions for providing provides a list of registered datasets.

9. (Currently amended) A method for rendering performance counter data in a computer system including a processor, an operating system executed by the processor, a performance counter provider application process and a performance counter consumer application process, the method comprising:

providing, via the operating system, an application program interface comprising a set of functions, the set of functions comprising a counter registration API function and a counter query API function;

calling a the counter registration API function to ~~register~~ allocate a performance counter structure within an address space of the performance counter provider application process, the address space designated by the operating system, wherein the counter

registration function ~~registers~~ assigns an access function for retrieving performance counter data from the performance counter structure; and

calling a the counter query API function to retrieve counter data from the performance counter structure within the address space of the counter provider application process by invoking the access function.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the access function operates within the address space of a the performance counter provider application process to retrieve the performance counter data from the performance counter structure.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the access function is a callback function.

12. (Currently amended) The performance counter framework of claim 9, wherein the counter registration API function further supports specifying a data template describing the performance counter data.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, ~~wherein the application program interface includes a method for~~ further comprising installing a description of the performance data furnished by a provider associated with the performance counter provider application process.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the description of the performance data includes a performance counter data schema.

15. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of:  
requesting a block of data items to be created according to a specified dataset template.

16. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising providing a list of registered datasets.

17. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium including a first set of computer-executable instructions facilitating rendering performance counter data in a system including a processor and an operating system executing on the processor, a performance counter provider application process and a performance counter consumer application process, the first set of computer-executable instructions facilitating executing the steps of:

providing, via the operating system, an application program interface comprising a set of functions, the set of functions comprising a counter registration API function and a counter query API function;

calling a the counter registration API function to ~~register~~ allocate a performance counter structure within an address space of the performance counter provider application process, the address space designated by the operating system, wherein the counter registration function ~~registers~~ assigns an access function for retrieving performance counter data from the performance counter structure; and

calling a the counter query API function to retrieve counter data from the performance counter structure within the address space of the performance counter provider application process by invoking the access function.

18. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 17, wherein the access function operates within the address space of a the performance counter provider application process to retrieve the performance counter data from the performance counter structure.

19. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 18, wherein the access function is a callback function.

20. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 17, wherein the counter registration API function further supports specifying a data template describing the performance counter data.

21. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 17, ~~wherein the application program interface includes a method further comprising a second set of computer executable instructions facilitating performing the step of~~ for installing a

description of the performance data furnished by a provider associated with the performance counter provider application process.

22. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 21, wherein the description of the performance data includes a performance counter data schema.

23. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 17, further comprising a third set of computer executable instructions facilitating performing the step of:

requesting a block of data items to be created according to a specified dataset template.

24. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 17, further comprising a fourth set of computer executable instructions facilitating performing the step of:

providing a list of registered datasets.

25. (Currently amended) A method for maintaining and providing performance counter data via an operating system interface of an operating system executing on a processor, the performance counter data rendered by counter provider application processes to counter consumers, the method comprising the steps of:

providing, via the operating system, an application program interface comprising a set of functions;

calling a first function of the set of functions for registering a counter provider associated with a counter provider application process within a repository of counter provider descriptions, wherein each counter provider entry in the repository includes a performance counter structure within an address space of the counter provider application process, the address space designated by the operating system, and an access function for retrieving performance counter data from the performance counter structure;

storing performance counter information within the performance counter structure;  
and

calling a second function of the set of functions for retrieving the performance counter information from the address space within the counter provider application process via the access function, in response to a performance counter query specifying the counter provider.

26. (Currently amended) A performance counter provider application process supported by an operating system of a computer for use in a performance counter system embodying a performance counter provider/consumer model, the performance counter provider application process comprising executable instructions for:

requesting, via an application program interface, ~~an~~ the operating system to allocate a memory space within the performance counter provider application process for a performance counter data structure;

storing performance counter information within the memory space; and

providing access by a registered callback function, invoked by a call to the application program interface, to the memory space containing the performance counter data structure.

27. (Currently amended) A performance counter system in a computer comprising:  
a processor,  
an operating system executed by the processor;  
a performance counter provider application process executed by the processor;  
a performance counter consumer application process executed by the processor; and  
an operating system performance counter application program interface comprising a first set of functions callable by a the performance counter provider application process to register ~~the~~ a corresponding performance counter provider in a repository, and a second set of functions for serving requests originating from the performance counter consumer application process to enumerate and access the performance counter provider application process.